

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

28-31. (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) A guide wire comprising:  
an elongated core having a proximal region and a distal region, the distal region of the  
core having a proximal portion and a distal portion;  
a radiopaque coil disposed about the distal portion of the distal region of the core;  
a plastic jacket disposed about the distal region of the core and the radiopaque coil, the  
plastic jacket being in intimate contact with the proximal portion of the distal region of the  
core along a length thereof; and ~~A guide wire as in claim 28;~~

wherein a distal end of the radiopaque coil is connected to a distal end of the core to form a connection, and wherein the plastic jacket encapsulates the connection.

33. (previously presented) A guidewire as in claim 32, wherein the distal portion of the core has a relatively flat cross-sectional shape.

34. (previously presented) A guidewire as in claim 33, wherein the proximal portion of the core has a relatively round cross-sectional shape.

35. (previously presented) A guide wire comprising:  
an elongated core having a proximal region and a distal region, the distal region of the core having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the distal portion of the distal region having a relatively flat cross-sectional shape and the proximal portion of the distal region of the core having a relatively round cross-sectional shape;

a radiopaque coil disposed about the distal portion of the distal region of the core, with a distal end of the radiopaque coil connected to a distal end of the core to form a junction; and

a plastic jacket having a smooth outer surface disposed about the proximal portion of the distal region of the core, the radiopaque coil, and the junction, the plastic jacket being in intimate contact with the radiopaque coil and the proximal portion of the distal region of the core.

36-39. (cancelled)

40. (previously presented) A guide wire comprising:

an elongated core wire including a first portion and a second portion disposed adjacent the first portion;

a radiopaque coil disposed about the first portion of the core wire;

a polymer jacket including a first section disposed about the radiopaque coil, and a second section adjacent the first section and overlaying and in contact with the second portion of the core wire.

41. (previously presented) A guidewire comprising:

an elongated body assembly including a first portion and a second portion disposed adjacent the first portion, the body assembly including an elongated core wire extending through both the first and second portions;

the first portion including a radiopaque coil disposed about the core wire, and a first section of a polymer jacket disposed about the radiopaque coil;

the second portion including a second section of the polymer jacket overlaying and in contact with the core wire.